



January 26, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB2 – Income Tax – Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Written Testimony of Victoria Leonard

Position – Favorable

Thank you Chair Atterbeary and members of the House Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB2. My name is Victoria Leonard, Political and Legislative Director for the Baltimore-Washington Laborers' District Council (BWLDC), an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America, or LiUNA for short. The BWLDC represents more than 7,500 members across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our members are proudly employed on many infrastructure construction projects across the region, including the Purple Line, BGE and WGL gas pipeline replacement projects, the Clean Rivers CSO tunnel projects, and the WMATA station upgrades, to name a few.

LiUNA supports HB2.

HB2 is good for both employers and employees. The bill is modeled on the widely supported federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit, or WOTC, that has been law since 1996. HB2 provides a state tax credit for employers that hire and retain employees from targeted groups, including SNAP and TANF recipients, the long-term unemployed, returning citizens, and disabled veterans. Because HB 2 is modeled on the federal credit, it will be easy for employers and the state to administer, scale, and succeed.

The BWLDC supports HB2 because it will help create employment opportunities for Maryland residents who have been underrepresented or faced discrimination in the workforce. Specifically, the bill will help workers move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers.

The BWLDC urges the committee to vote favorably on HB2.